



MONSON

Hampden County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Monson center is nestled in the Chicopee River valley between east and west steep and rocky hills. The difficulty of traveling over the hills to the center of Brimfield prompted those settlers in the western part of that territory to petition the court for permission to form a new town. Permission was granted and Monson was officially incorporated in 1760. Waterpower was abundant and small mills were scattered over the 48 square miles. A hat factory, several woolen and cotton mills and the Flynt Granite Company all thrived for more than 100 years. A.D. Ellis Mills, Inc., known world-wide for its fine woolen cloth was the last to leave, closing about thirty years ago.

These industries have been replaced in part by the plastics industry and by Zero Manufacturing Company. Monson Developmental Center is and has been for many years the largest employer in town. This facility housing severely handicapped residents has a pleasant campus setting on 700 acres of land. The service industry and recreational facilities are the strongest growing segments.

Memorial Hall, built in 1884 of Monson granite, anchors the southern end of a National Register Historic Commercial District. This building contains a fine Civil War Museum and auditorium. Other museums include an 1811 restored home of attorney Jacob Thompson and a 58 acre farm with a farmhouse housing the only known Button museum. This property adjoins the 128 acre Flynt Park which offers opportunities for bird and foliage tours, picnics and passive recreation. An active tourism program is being developed for the summer of 1994 to promote these and other recreational, historic and cultural features of Monson.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southern Massachusetts, bordered by Palmer on the north; Brimfield and Wales on the east; Wilbraham and Hampden on the west; and Stafford, Connecticut, on the south. Monson is 17 miles east of Springfield, 77 miles southwest of Boston, and about 157 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 44.83 sq. miles

Land Area: 44.29 sq. miles

Population: 7,776

Density: 176 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(East Brimfield Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....21.5°F

Normal temperature in July.....70.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Monson, Palmer, Ludlow, Hampden

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 267-4100

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1775

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,130		
Democrats	1,527	37.0	%
Republicans	546	13.2	%
Other parties	2	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,055	49.8	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Monson town, Hampden County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	8,359	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	8,359	100.0
Male.....	4,125	49.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	98	1.2
Female.....	4,234	50.7	Mexican.....	3	-
Under 5 years.....	522	6.2	Puerto Rican.....	68	0.8
5 to 9 years.....	575	6.9	Cuban.....	3	-
10 to 14 years.....	634	7.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	24	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	583	7.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	8,261	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	353	4.2	White alone.....	8,098	96.9
25 to 34 years.....	973	11.6	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,644	19.7	Total population.....	8,359	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,348	16.1	In households.....	8,129	97.2
55 to 59 years.....	477	5.7	Householder.....	3,095	37.0
60 to 64 years.....	335	4.0	Spouse.....	1,793	21.4
65 to 74 years.....	479	5.7	Child.....	2,602	31.1
75 to 84 years.....	345	4.1	Own child under 18 years.....	1,960	23.4
85 years and over.....	91	1.1	Other relatives.....	276	3.3
Median age (years).....	38.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	94	1.1
18 years and over.....	6,251	74.8	Nonrelatives.....	363	4.3
Male.....	3,054	36.5	Unmarried partner.....	200	2.4
Female.....	3,197	38.2	In group quarters.....	230	2.8
21 years and over.....	5,965	71.4	Institutionalized population.....	228	2.7
62 years and over.....	1,105	13.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	2	-
65 years and over.....	915	10.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	372	4.5	Total households.....	3,095	100.0
Female.....	543	6.5	Family households (families).....	2,203	71.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,069	34.2
One race.....	8,287	99.1	Married-couple family.....	1,793	57.9
White.....	8,166	97.7	With own children under 18 years.....	819	26.5
Black or African American.....	56	0.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	291	9.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	19	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	178	5.8
Asian.....	26	0.3	Nonfamily households.....	892	28.8
Asian Indian.....	1	-	Householder living alone.....	705	22.8
Chinese.....	1	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	283	9.1
Filipino.....	10	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,131	36.5
Japanese.....	4	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	640	20.7
Korean.....	8	0.1	Average household size.....	2.63	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.12	(X)
Other Asian ¹	2	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	3,213	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,095	96.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	118	3.7
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	29	0.9
Some other race.....	19	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	72	0.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.6	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	3,095	100.0
White.....	8,234	98.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,491	80.5
Black or African American.....	77	0.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	604	19.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	37	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.78	(X)
Asian.....	44	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.01	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	0.1			
Some other race.....	39	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	95
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	18
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 connects to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 32, which runs N-S and has an interchange with the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90) in Palmer.

Rail

The Central Vermont Railway offers freight rail service to Monson, which is a center for the distribution of lumber and paper products. Contact number for the Central Vermont: (802) 527-3402

Bus

Monson is not affiliated with any regional transit authority.

Other

Metropolitan Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Palmer, is easily accessible. It has a 2,475'x 55' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Jacob Thompson House

9 Main Street

Keep Homstead Museum

35 Ely Road

Grand Army of the Replublic Meeting Room

Memorial Hall

198 Main Street

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.